

News From\_\_\_\_\_

U.S. Senator  
**Robert C. Byrd**  
West Virginia  
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## **Byrd Secures Funding for West Virginia Transportation Projects**

*Nearly \$40 Million Acquired for Infrastructure Needs across the Mountain State*

WASHINGTON, D.C.... U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd, D-W.Va., has announced \$39.425 million in funding for significant infrastructure improvements throughout the State of West Virginia as part of the FY 09 Omnibus Appropriations bill.

“With the approval of these funds, I have continued my commitment to improving the infrastructure throughout our great State,” Byrd said. “These projects are an integral component in our overall efforts to create jobs, reduce traffic, make travel safer, and spur economic development in West Virginia.”

Byrd was instrumental in securing federal funding for the following projects:

- \$4.75 million for the Coalfields Expressway with work focused on the Allen Creek to Slab Fork area. The Coalfields Expressway is a proposed 112-mile four-lane highway that will run from I-64-77 in Beckley to U.S. 23 in Pound, Virginia. To date, Byrd has secured more than \$144 million for this project;
- \$4.75 million for King Coal Highway for construction of an interchange at WV 460 in Mercer County. The King Coal Highway is a 104-mile segment of U.S. 52 that extends from the Robert C. Byrd Freeway near Williamson to I-77 near Bluefield. To date, Senator Byrd has acquired more than \$119 million towards the completion of this project;
- \$4.75 million for WV Route 10 in Logan County which will be used for road alignments and curve adjustments. Along with the support of Congressman Rahall, to date, Senator Byrd has obtained more than \$105 million;

- \$4.75 million to repair a major slide along U.S. 60 near Hughesville in Kanawha County;
- \$6.65 million for WV Route 9 which will be directed toward preliminary construction work between Charles Town and the Virginia State Line. These new monies come in addition to the \$149.84 million that Byrd has secured for the development of WV Route 9 since 1991;
- Byrd secured \$9.5 million for Corridor H, which remains the only unfinished corridor highway in West Virginia as part of the Appalachian Development Highway System (ADHS). Corridor H is planned to stretch from I-79 at Weston through the Potomac Highlands to the Virginia state line. Nearly 30 miles of Corridor H have been completed, and another 14 miles are currently under construction, while final environmental/design work has begun on another 30 miles. This \$9.5 million will be used primarily for work on the roadway between Davis and Forman, West Virginia. The \$9.5 million that Byrd secured is in addition to the \$341.2 million he has obtained in past appropriations and authorization bills for Corridor H construction. The State also receives annual ADHS formula funding;
- Also among the money Byrd secured was \$1.425 million for the Town of Harpers Ferry to improve Potomac Street. This money will be used to place utility lines underground, repair streets, and construct new sidewalks and facades on Potomac Street, which runs parallel to the Potomac River in downtown Harpers Ferry;
- \$4.275 million to support improvements to airports throughout the State of West Virginia;
- \$1.9 million for the Kanawha Trestle-Rail-Trail project. These funds will be used for the redevelopment of an abandoned CSX railroad trestle bridge over the Kanawha River and converting 6 miles of rail lines into walking/bicycle trails that would traverse from the Mound in South Charleston to the Capitol Complex; and
- \$950,000 for roadway development and supporting infrastructure at the Elkins Railyard project. The Randolph County Development Authority acquired the Western Maryland Railroad yard in downtown Elkins several years ago and has successfully rehabilitated the property. There is now a kidney dialysis center, an injury rehabilitation center, and a Holiday Inn Express located at the site. Presently, the Authority is completing a town square that will be used as a public venue for various activities. The final piece of this project is to complete the roadways and water and sewer lines within the boundaries of this project.

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